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Letter from [John Muir] to Sarah [Muir Galloway], 1875 Jan 16.

John Muir

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Oakland Jan 16th 1873

My dear Sister Sarah. I have just returned from a long train of excursions in the Sierras & find yours & many other letters waiting, all that accumulated for five months. I spent my holidays on the Yuba & Feather rivers exploring. I have of course worked hard & enjoyed hard. ascending mts. crossing canons. Rambling ceaselessly over hill & dale. Plain & lava bed.

I thought of you all gathered with your little ones enjoying the sweet & simple pleasures that belong to your lives & loves. I have not yet in all my wanderings found a single person so free as myself. Yet I am bound by my studies & the laws of my own life. At times I feel as if driven with whips, & ridden upon, when in the

woods I sit at times for hours watching
birds or squirrels or looking down into the
faces of flowers without suffering any feeling
of haste Yet I am swept onward in a
general current that bears on irresistibly
when therefore I shall be allowed to float-
homeward I dianna dianna Ken but I hope.

The world as well as the Nitro is
good to me & my studies flow on in a
wider & wider current by the incoming
of many a noble tributary.

Probably if I were living amongst you all
You would follow me in my scientific work
but as it is You will do so imperfectly
However when I visit You will all have to
submit to numerous lectures.

You enquire about Merrill. He is attending
the ^{North Western} State University in Indianapolis, I was so
fortunate a week ago as to meet a lady from Indian-
apolis intimately acquainted with the Merrill family
& I enjoyed a two days conversation with her